

the newsletter of the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments, Linda Boothe, the mother of Jay Boothe, wrote about the memorial dedication:

The honor and tributes paid to these fallen heroes is a wonderful display of how a country does care and remember its other heroes—those who serve their country in their own communities and fight the war against the fiery dragon that threatens through carelessness. The monumental plaque with the names of the firefighters that died in 1994 now stands at the monument site so that others can read these heroes' names for years to come.

That, Mr. Speaker, truly sums up the valuable role these volunteers play in so many lives each and every day across this great country. On behalf of the U.S. Congress and a grateful Nation, I say Thank you and God bless you.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SATELLITE HOME VIEWER PROTECTION ACT OF 1996

HON. CARLOS J. MOORHEAD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 28, 1996

Mr. MOORHEAD. Mr. Speaker, the Satellite Home Viewer Protection Act of 1996 seeks to break the logjam in negotiations between the satellite TV industry and network broadcasters created by the Satellite Home Viewer Act of 1994, and to provide subscribers with rights and remedies with respect to reception of satellite-delivered network signals. The Home Viewer Protection Act accomplishes these goals in several ways.

The bill adds new section 119(a)(2)(D) which requires satellite carriers to notify their new and existing subscribers of the network signal restrictions of the 1994 Home Viewer Act. Many subscribers have complained that they have spent hundreds of dollars on satellite equipment without being told that they may not be eligible for service of certain network signals. Further, existing subscribers have had their network service turned off with little or no explanation or information from their satellite carriers. The bill will resolve this problem by placing an affirmative duty on satellite carriers to inform their potential subscribers of the network restrictions prior to their providing service, as well as inform their current subscribers of the restrictions by a date certain.

The bill also provides subscribers, whose service of network signals is challenged by their local network affiliates, a direct means of determining whether they are still eligible for service. If a local affiliate challenges a subscriber in its local service area under the 1994 act, the satellite carrier must inform the subscriber of the challenge in writing. The subscriber then has 30 days to request the satellite carrier to conduct a signal intensity measurement at his household to determine if he is eligible for service of the network signal that is the subject of the challenge. If the subscriber does not make a timely written request, then the satellite carrier must terminate service. The limits placed on the number of measurements that the satellite carrier must conduct, established in the 1994 act, are retained.

If the signal intensity measurement determines that the subscriber is an unserved

household, then the local network affiliate must reimburse the satellite carrier for the cost of the survey. If the measurement reveals that the subscriber does not reside in an unserved household, then subscriber must reimburse the satellite carrier.

In order for the new signal intensity measurement procedure to work, there must, of course, be accepted standards for the measurement. Both satellite carriers and broadcasters agreed in 1994 that they would work out the parameters of the measurement under the current law, but they have been unable to do so. The bill provides both sides with a short negotiation period in which to voluntarily agree to terms and conditions, followed by binding arbitration. Arbitration would be governed by the provisions of title 9 of the United States Code. Whether the signal intensity measurement standards are developed through agreement or arbitration, they must be deposited with the Register of Copyrights for public inspection and copying.

Finally, the bill makes two additional changes regarding the signal intensity measurement. By deleting section 119(a)(8)(D), the measurement is confined to only those subscribers residing within the predicted grade B contour, local service area, of the network affiliate station issuing the challenge. Under the current law, the network has the option of challenging and testing subscribers outside their local service area. As a practical matter, however, most broadcast stations' advertising rate cards are based upon viewers residing within the stations' local service area, so loss of viewership resulting from subscribers outside the local service area does not economically harm broadcasters. Consequently, there is no reason to vest broadcasters with the ability to issue challenges against, and terminate the service of, subscribers who do not reside within their local service area.

The signal intensity measurement procedures of the current law are scheduled to expire at the end of this year. Because of the lack of industry agreement, the procedures have not functioned as envisioned in 1994. Consequently, the bill extends the procedures by an additional year, so that the network challenge and signal intensity measurement regime will not expire until December 31, 1997. I intend to announce a hearing date and a date for markup after the Easter/Passover break.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COLETTE JOHNSON

HON. GREG GANSKE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 28, 1996

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring your attention to the excellent work and accomplishment of Colette Johnson for being a national winner in the Voice of Democracy contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary. Colette is a senior at Abraham Lincoln High School in Council Bluffs, IA.

I want to offer my congratulations to Colette and to VFW Post 737 in Council Bluffs for sponsoring her in this contest. Following is Colette's inspirational essay "Answering America's Call."

ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL

(By Colette Johnson)

It's time to put the phone back on the hook. She's been trying to get through to you. You took the phone off to forget about your responsibilities. But it's an urgent call. She's been trying to get through. She needs your help. She's calling now. America's calling. You need to answer her call.

Who's calling? America? Your country. But without people she's just a name. A country isn't great because of its land. A country isn't great because of its buildings or cars or weapons. The only thing that can make a country great is its people—people who care, people who are willing to give of themselves, because they have a dream bigger than themselves—a dream of what America should be. America needs dreamers. She needs people who see a land free from the destruction of pollution, where the beauty of nature is cherished and protected. She needs people who see a land free from the shame of pornography, where women and children are never exploited, but are respected. America needs people who see a land where every home is safe from drug abuse and alcoholism, where it is safe to drive through every neighborhood, where every child is free from the fear of abuse and kidnapping, where no one is discriminated against because of their age or color or disability, where all men are brothers, and all brothers are kind. America needs dreamers.

But America needs dreamers who will wake up and do something. It's not enough to dream. America needs people who will make their dreams a reality. She needs people who will do what they should do and not just what is easy to do. America needs dreamers who will plant trees, conserve water, ride bikes, people who will protest pornography and protect its victims. She needs dreamers who will provide foster homes and adopt and love unloved children. America's dreamers need to work with drug and alcohol rehabilitation. America needs dreamers who will look beyond age and color and disability and love all people.

Be a dreamer. America needs dreamers. But more importantly, be a dreamer who makes a dream a reality. As Henry David Thoreau said, "If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours." Don't leave the phone off the hook any longer. Answer America's call. She needs you.

ELIMINATE DOUBLE TAXATION OF LUMP SUM SEPARATION BENEFITS FOR VETERANS

HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 28, 1996

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation today, H.R. 3183, which would eliminate double taxation of lump sum separation benefits for a veteran who is subsequently determined to be entitled to compensation for a service-connected disability.

This bill would not only do equity, it would correct a legislative oversight.

Prior to 1981, the Department of Veterans Affairs was required to recoup only 75 percent of the total amount of the military separation payment by withholding disability compensation. This provision was intended to account for the inequity of recouping taxable separation pay with nontaxable compensation.

The enactment of 10 U.S.C. 1174(h) eliminated the percentage recoupment and established total recoupment of separation pay. The effect is to require the veteran who has paid income tax on the total separation pay to, in effect, pay that tax again, out of his disability compensation.

H.R. 3183 would correct this inequity by limiting future recoupment of separation pay to no more than 75 percent of the benefit received.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this legislation.

RETIREMENT OF JAMES E. SULLIVAN

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 28, 1996

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate Mr. James E. Sullivan of Springfield, MA, on his retirement from the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority after more than 20 years of diligent service. Mr. Sullivan, or Jimmy, is a lifelong resident of Springfield and hails from a family with a strong tradition in public service. The youngest of five brothers, James answered the call to public service shortly after his graduation from Cathedral High School in 1949 when he joined the 104th Air National Guard. Jimmy served the Guard dutifully for 9 years, handling supplies and public relations for the 104th. Following his honorable discharge, James began a distinguished working career in a wide variety of occupations including finance, sales, media, and ultimately transportation. It was in this final area that James excelled, working his way up the ladder of the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority from a toll taker to an assistant superintendent, a position he held for the past 17 years.

In addition to his outstanding work for the MTA, Jimmy was extremely active in a host of community activities. He served as president of the Sacred Heart Holy Name Society and is currently a lecturer and a eucharistic minister at Our Lady of Hope Parish in Springfield. He was also a member of several organizations that have made tremendous contributions to the Springfield community. Among these organizations are the Knights of Columbus, the Archbishop Williams Council, and the Springfield Elks Lodge. James also served as the chairman of the Ward 2 Democratic Committee in Springfield. It was also from this position that he offered tremendous support for the many area politicians who hailed from ward 2, including myself.

In addition to these other activities, Jimmy has been tremendously active in Irish affairs both at home and abroad. As a member of the John Boyle O'Reilly Club and the host of an Irish radio program for 25 years, he is intensely proud of his Irish heritage. These two activities have provided him with an ideal vehicle to expose several generations of Irish-Americans, in the Springfield area, to the rich traditions of song and history that Ireland enjoys. He has also been a longtime advocate of the peace process and I know he has done much to promote this sentiment throughout our region.

I would like to congratulate Jimmy on a wonderful career and I wish him all the best

as he enjoys his retirement with his wife Peggy, his children Margaret, Sean, and Thomas, and his granddaughter Kaila. While this retirement is a tremendous loss for the MTA, I know that it will enable him to devote even more time to a family he cares for deeply.

I would also like to salute Jimmy Sullivan as a true public servant. His devotion to his family, his church, his job, his country, and his heritage have enabled him to enrich the lives of all who know him. As his Congressman, fellow Democrat, and personal friend, I join the citizens of the Second Congressional District in offering Jimmy our heartfelt congratulations. His life and service to his community are an inspiration to us all and I thank him for all that he has done.

GROWING SUPPORT FOR MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 27, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, the last minimum wage adjustment made in 1989 has been completely eroded by inflation. However, we can learn from the experience of that last increase to help assuage the fears that another increase will be detrimental to employment opportunities.

According to analysis by Richard B. Freeman, the preeminent labor economist from Harvard University, studies done on the 1989 minimum wage increase show "that moderate increases in the minimum (wage) transferred income to the lower paid without any apparent adverse effect on employment. * * *

Translation: the 1989 minimum wage increase did not cost jobs; it did boost the incomes of affected workers.

Mr. Speaker, the 1989 increase was overwhelmingly supported on a bipartisan basis in both the House and the Senate before being signed into law by President Bush. It is time for this Congress to address the wage erosion for low-wage workers with a meaningful minimum wage increase. It is time that the people's House began addressing the real concerns of people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE WARD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 28, 1996

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, on March 27, 1996, I was unavoidably detained and missed one rollcall vote. I would like the record to show that had I been present for rollcall vote No. 94, on H.R. 1833, the so-called partial-birth abortion ban, I would have voted "no."

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AMERICAN HERITAGE CLUBS OF NORWALK-LA MIRADA AND CARSON, CA

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 28, 1996

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a special group of individuals who have generously supported the American Heritage Clubs of Norwalk-La Mirada and Carson, CA. It is through these contributions of time, energy, and unwavering dedication, that the young people of our community receive the educational opportunity they deserve. The kindness of the following individuals is greatly appreciated:

Roger Leue, for three decades of dedication to Carson's youth; Ted Kimura's support of the 1995 tour of our Nation's Capital; Dr. Caroline Hee for her continuous support and her special floral arrangement at the 1995 Luau; the leadership Elito Santarina displayed in organizing the Carson High American Heritage tour of Washington, DC; the financial support of Dr. Dhyen Lal for the 1994-95 trip; to our 1996 grand marshal, Jesse Sapolu and the fine example he sets for not only the youth of the Pacific Islands, but for all Americans; and the financial support provided by Mayor Don Dear greatly contributed to the success of the Washington, DC, tour for students of Stephen White Middle School.

In addition, we owe a debt of gratitude to Peggy Flores for her guidance and smiling face; Cheri Webster for her willingness to always rise to the challenges that the Washington tours present; Desiree Sullenger for her tireless work on numerous fundraisers; Jim and Bette Hannum, Bev Thies and Marianne Estes, your presence on the trips to Washington was immeasurable; Ernie and Jolinda Marquez and Joe and Mary Mendoza, concerned and caring parents are the foundation of the American Heritage Clubs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to these special individuals. Their commitment enables the youth of Norwalk-La Mirada and Carson to make these annual historic and educational trips to Washington, DC. The youth in our community will be forever grateful to each of these caring individuals for helping with this extremely valuable experience.

THE INDIANA REGIONAL MINORITY SUPPLIER DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL IS VERY GOOD NEWS

HON. ANDREW JACOBS, JR.

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 28, 1996

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, thank God there is good news as well as bad.

The Indiana Regional Minority Supplier Development Council is very good news because it plays a positive and effective role in building up the backbone of American enterprise, small business.

For nearly 20 years the council has brought together large majority businesses with small minority business suppliers in the State of Indiana. And the result has been a very happy one both for the large and small corporations.